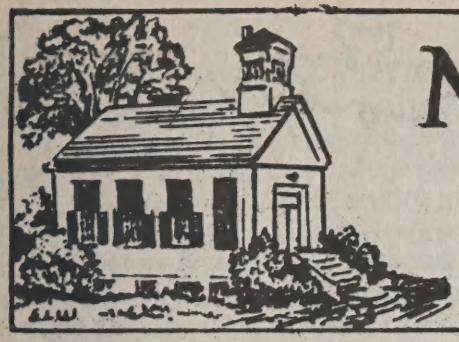


MONTEREY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1989

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

A Special Town Meeting was held Friday, August 25, at the Monterey Firehouse at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 77 voters attended.

The first four articles listed on the warrant were various appropriations of funds to pay outstanding Town bills including the Police Protection Account and the Cemetery Maintenance Account. It was agreed that the Town would join the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District for the sum of $2,700.00. Wayne Burkhart ("Wastelines") explained that by combining our resources via the Solid Waste District we would reduce transportation costs and enable the members to work more effectively on the problems of waste disposal. The citizens were assured that if they were dissatisfied with the compact there is an escape clause.

Articles 5, 6 and 7 were considered by the Planning Board to be clarifications of current by-law definitions in order to better inform present and prospective residents of Monterey. There was confusion over the revised "Frontage" definition, part of which was amended to read, "The boundary of a lot, some portion of which is useable for access to a building site . . .," and people were concerned about the word "useable," feeling that it should be more specific. Planning Board member Bob Thieriot pointed out that, written or not, inherent in the definition of "Frontage" is the necessity of useable access to a building site and that the Planning Board often must make a judgment of "useable access"; i.e., not through a wetland or a clifflike slope. Chairman of the Planning Board Joe Baker said that there is case law to substantiate this definition, and he felt that it should be clearly stated in the by-laws. However, there was confusion and discontent among some citizens about the new definition, and Dek Tillett moved that it be deleted from Article 5; the motion was passed. There was also controversy about including "docks" in the definition of "Structure" (for which one must obtain a building permit). Planning Board Chairman Joe Baker reiterated the case law in this area and the importance of clarity in the by-laws. At this point Bob Gauthier took the floor and said that, "We are wasting our time here," and went on to say that the Planning Board will use approved case law to back up their decisions whether the formal definitions are changed or not; "Let's be simplistic and use approved cases," implored Mr. Gauthier. Dean Amidon pointed out that docks are under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Division of Waterways (although dock regulations are largely unenforced) and believed that it would be "opening a real can of worms" for the Town to get involved. Selectman Matt Williams expressed concern for the rights of Lake Buel residents regarding dock regulations and moved that "docks" be deleted from the definition of "Structure," and the motion passed. Finally, the amended Article 5 passed.

Articles 6 and 7, which were minor rewordings, were quickly amended and passed. There was no great change from the former by-laws.

The next order of business was Stream and Pond Protection (Article 8), which proposed to increase the minimum setback requirements from the present 100 feet to 150 feet. There was a great deal of heated interchange concerning this proposal. Dek Tillett questioned the validity of the 150-foot figure, pointing out that state regulations call for a 50-foot setback, and felt that the new figure was arbitrary. Town Secretary Maryellen Brown expressed her belief that the Stream and Pond Protection idea was an attempt to prevent development. Planning Board member Bob Thieriot defended the proposal, saying that it is to protect water quality and the environment.

September Morn

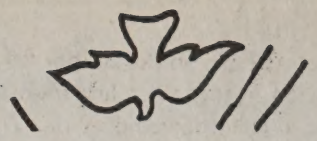
Board of Appeals member Peter Murkett said that there is a point where a town must choose between ". . . growth and an individual's ability to capitalize on the land and environmental quality." Some residents were concerned that the proposed by-law, which referred to "any stream or pond including beaver ponds," was too broad; in response to this Dean Amidon moved to delete that phrase and use the names of the major bodies of water in the town. This motion was not passed, and a vote was taken on the proposed by-law. With 30 people in favor of Stream and Pond Protection and 17 against, the by-law failed in its attempt to win the 2/3 majority needed to pass (many people had left the meeting by this time, hence the 47 votes).

A proposal to add "Erosion" and Sedimentation Control" regulations to the by-laws was also defeated, as well as the addition of a new "Soil Disturbance" definition. At this point Dean Amidon moved that the meeting be adjourned and rescheduled for a later date in order to give the attention due the other proposals (it was getting late). Moderator Mark Makuc advised that if a date was set at this time for the next meeting it would be legal to do this. The Planning Board concurred, and August 31, 7:30 p.m., was set for the continuation of the Town Meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

— Maggie Leonard

/ SUSAN McALLESTER

After a temporary halt, Randy Leonard of Mt. Everett Landscaping Co. continues installation of a new septic system for the Monterey School. It will be ready for the first day.



CHURCH NEWS

It's hard to believe that summer is almost at an end. With the coming of September and autumn a new church year is about to begin. In looking forward to the future, one of my favorite poems by e. e. cummings comes to mind. More than any other church I have served, this poetic interpretation seems most appropriate to our particular congregation.

i am a little church (no great cathedral)
far from the splendor and squalor of hurrying cities
—i do not worry if briefer days grow briefest,
i am not sorry when sun and rain make april

my life is the life of the reaper and the sower;
my prayers are prayers of earth's own clumsily striving
(finding and losing and laughing and crying) children
whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing
birth and glory and death and resurrection:
over my sleeping self float flaming symbols
of hope, and i wake to a perfect patience of mountains

i am a little church (far from the frantic
world with its rapture and anguish) at peace with nature
—i do not worry if longer nights grow longest;
i am not sorry when silence becomes singing

winter by spring, i lift my diminutive spire to
merciful Him Whose only now is forever:
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence
(welcoming humbly His light and proudly His darkness)

We are a small church, certainly no great cathedral, but we are a community of faith seeking, striving, growing in our search for a holy song. God's song is a rich diversity of divine melodies sung by the human family. Woven into a rainbow chorus we celebrate together our journey of faith. We are "not sorry when silence becomes singing" because our song is a holy melody of love.

— Cliff Aerie

ANATOMICAS FRACAS

Here's another perspective on the "minor fracas" involving Town boards reported in the *News* last month.

The Appeals Board is empowered by our Zoning By-Law to "grant permits for exceptions as provided by this By-Law . . . when it shall find, after public hearing, that such exception shall be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the By-Law and that the use involved will not be detrimental to the established or future character of the neighborhood and of the Town and subject to appropriate conditions or safeguards if deemed necessary. Upon receipt of a request for permit, the Board of Appeals shall notify the Planning Board and the Board of Health of the request, and said boards shall respond to the Board of Appeals within thirty days thereafter by written reports of their findings in respect of their specific fields of responsibilities."

Despite language like "in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the By-Law" and "detrimental to the established or future character of the neighborhood and of the Town," the "permits for exceptions" which the Appeals Board may grant are quite specifically defined in the By-Law. To be granted a Special Permit, any proposed action must meet the specific provisions, and, further, must be found to be "in harmony . . ." etc., etc. It's not as if the Board has the power to grant permits to good guys and deny them to creeps. A creep denied can be a dangerous beast, and a righteous person wronged will seek redress. In short, the Appeals Board can be sued. No one serving on the Board is unaware of this prospect, you may be sure. The responsibility is twofold: to interpret the By-Law in its application to specific cases, and to enforce it. Every member takes this responsibility to heart. We have to; nothing short of heartfelt commitment can prepare an ordinary person for the job, wading through the meaning and application of legal language.

Eric Pedersen wanted to convert a single family dwelling into a multifamily dwelling of two units, but his lot was less than the standard minimum size (five acres area). Such a conversion on a sub-minimum-sized lot is allowed by Special Permit under certain conditions, one of which is that "the lot area has not been reduced below the minimum within seven (7) years of the proposed conversion." The lot in question had indeed been reduced last year, from a parcel of about 1.3A to one of about 0.7A. For this reason the Planning Board, in its letter to the Appeals Board reporting its findings on the Application, recommended against granting the permit. There was no mention in the letter of Town Counsel's opinion on the issue.

Stefan Grotz attended the hearing and argued that since the lot area was sub-minimum both before and after the change, it had not been "reduced below the minimum." That is, the change did not cause the lot to cross the legal bound from standard to subminimum area.

Maynard Forbes attended the hearing, too, and made the point that the relevant sections of the By-Law allowing two-unit multifamily use of small lots was written by the Planning Board and approved by voters a few years back only after an initial proposal proscribing such use met with strong opposition.

The Board heard this input, asked a few questions, discussed the matter some in the public hearing, and discussed it a great deal more in its (open) meeting that immediately followed the public hearing.

Our debate was exhaustive. It often touched on the obvious fact that Eric's proposal met every general criterion in terms of being an appropriate, harmonious and advantageous use; just as often, the point was made that that wasn't the point. There was a discomforting, tricky quality about the argument that since the lot was already below the minimum, it therefore hadn't been "reduced below the minimum." But the language was truly weak, and no case could have made that weakness more obvious. We tried out a zillion scenarios, grant or deny, and talked over every aspect of intent and consequences for more than two hours. It was a tough case. In the end, a strong majority (four of five) appeared to favor granting the permit. The apparent dissenting vote was strong too. It lay with the Board Chairman, who might have postponed a decision pending consultation with Town Counsel, but he is a strict parliamentarian, and proper procedure prohibits motions by the Chair of a meeting. No one else moved to continue the hearing. Instead, the question was moved, and the Board voted four to one in favor of granting the permit.

After this vote, as you know from reading the *News* last month, the Planning Board reaffirmed its original opinion, voting three to two in favor of appealing the Appeals Board decision to a judge in Superior Court. Then the Selectmen unanimously declined to authorize the Court action, which lets the granted permit stand. The conflict between the Planning and Appeals Boards over the precise meaning of paragraph IV-B.2.(1)(6)(B) of our Zoning By-Law can still be resolved if the Planning Board offers revised language and the voters approve the revision. This would also remove any legal precedent set by Eric's controversial case.

Although at certain stages along the way the "fracas" was troubling, in the end I see nothing more clearly than the resilience and success of democratic process. The variety of sensibilities and viewpoints represented on our Town's boards, and the shades of difference in the tasks specific to these boards together yield a wisdom that could rarely be realized, and never perpetuated, by fiat. The laws that govern our use of land are like a building plan, as far removed as lines on paper from a real building with rooms and roof that houses people. Building a legal structure to protect and support that elusive, fluid, possibly even non-existent Thing, the Common Good, is an unending job. Additions and retrofits are always needed. It's our good luck that we get to build our own, and live among people willing to keep at it. The sound structure already in place serves us well. At the price of a fracas or two, now and then, we've got a bargain.

— Peter Murkett, Clerk
Monterey Board of Appeals

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CICADAS AND KATYDIDS:
Late Summer Music, Day and Night

I have just returned from a week at music camp in the Catskills where over one hundred musicians amaze themselves, year after year, by playing music all day and all night, falling apart at the seams for the lack of sleep. I averaged four hours of sleep; the last night I went to bed just as the sun was coming up. It's not the kind of schedule I could keep up indefinitely, I suppose, but like the other people there, I know I will soon be headed home to the realities of keeping house and making a living. We all get as much out of that precious week as we can, then go home to live on memories and new tunes. We will sleep longer, work harder, play less and look forward to the next time we can go to camp.

Every night when I drifted off to my tent at last, reluctantly, I would lie awake for some time as the tunes died away. Finally my head would be cleared and ready for sleep. Then I would notice the katydids. The woods around the camp are full of these "long-horned grasshoppers," cousins to the crickets and locusts, and they set up a terrific din every night. I was not always aware of them since I was often making even more noise myself, but they were the last thing I heard as I finally got to sleep, and often I can hear them on my cassette tapes after I get home, if I've done any taping at night.

By day, when we stopped for meals or to tune up, we heard the cicadas. Their song is a high drone, steady or pulsing slightly. It dies down sometimes and then one individual will start up and be joined by many others. The singer is the male, twanging away on the big drum heads located on either side of his body, which is like a resonating sound-box. There is a muscle attached to the center of each of these and he can yank it at a rate of 50 times per second. Each contraction produces about 12 "excitations" of the resonant cavity. Altogether this is a highly efficient system which lets the cicadas make a great deal of noise over a long period of time (its entire adulthood, during the hot hours of the day) during which it never takes in any food.

Katydids make their music the same way crickets do, by rubbing together roughened places on the overlapping bases of their front wings. They are bright green and look quite a bit like grasshoppers except that their wings are proportionately bigger, they do not have such bulging eyes, and their antennae are very long and slim. In many of the 4,000 species of katydids found around the world, it is only the males who sing. But with the ones I heard in the Catskills, the only species which actually says "katyDID, katyDID" and occasionally "katyDIDN'T," both sexes sing. This is the so-called true katydid, *Pterophylla mellifolia*, and it is 1¾ to 2⅛ inches long. Its ears are in its front legs, and it sings to proclaim territory as well as to attract a mate. Eggs are deposited by the female on or under the bark of trees and the katydids spend the winter as eggs.

Cicadas lay their eggs in trees, too, but upon hatching the little nymph jumps off and falls to the ground, burrowing in wherever it lands. It spends three to 17 years underground, depending upon what species it is, sucking juice from roots and rootlets and moulting as it grows bigger. Finally it emerges, splits its nymphal exoskeleton up the middle of the back and flips out backwards to unfold its new wings and generally to dry out and toughen up a little. They are quite vulnerable at this point, but to assure species continuation, cicadas have evolved a mathematically ingenious method of survival.

First, they emerge by the thousands so that no matter how many blue jays, cats, raccoons and other predators are on hand to gobble them down, there will still be large numbers of cicadas left to start the next generation. Also, each species has its own schedule of emergence which is difficult for a predator population to follow. The most successful of all these is that of the "periodical cicadas," which spend 17 years underground before emerging as adults. The periodical cicadas are 1⅛ inch long and are basically black with red eyes and a reddish tinge to the wings and legs. Their song rises and falls in pitch.

The cicada I've seen most often here in Monterey is the dog-day harvestfly, which is slightly larger than the periodical cicada and has green markings and green eyes. It is on a three-year cycle. This does not mean that we see it only once every three years. A given population only comes up every three years, so this year's adults will lay eggs that will hatch in three years. But next summer we will see the offspring of the cicadas that sang to us in the summer of 1987. The broods of different years are given different numbers by entomologists, and some years they are especially large. Just now we are looking forward to a huge emergence in 1996 of the periodical cicadas of "Brood II," last seen in these parts in 1979.

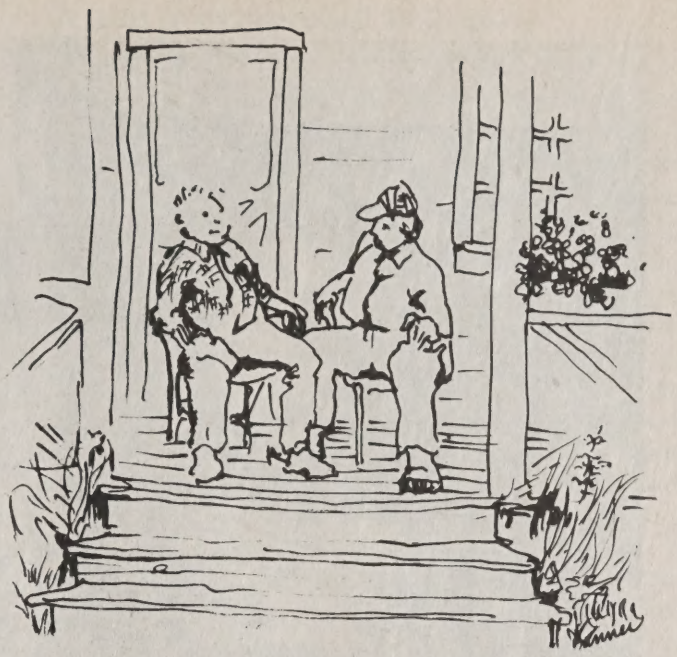
I hope to make it back to the Catskills sooner than that, but even if I don't I know the music goes on. Some creatures were born to make music all the time, all of their adult lives. Cicadas keep on singing without stopping to eat, the katydids play all night. I have to fit in a number of other things, myself, but I love to hear the music continue, as I slip off to sleep.

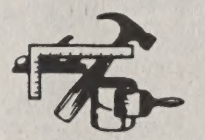
— Bonner J. McAllester

BROOKBEND INN

Brookbend Inn. This farm was owned by M. C. Langdon, but when I was young a Harmony Bills lived in the east end of the house and rented the west upright part to other families. After the death of Mrs. Bills, John Palmer was the owner of the buildings consisting of a fine New England type house with the usual ell part of a story and a half, and a fine coat of white paint, which made it attract the eye while coming into the center of the town. At the east of the house stands a large barn, well built, with large timbers, mortised together with wooden pins. This barn will stand for years if the roof is kept shingled. Between the house and the large barn was a building where cattle were kept for milking. There was a high board fence around the barnyard. At the back of the house stood another building with a workshop in the front and a wood shed piled full of dry hard wood in the rear. A driveway at the west end of the house next to the present Library was the way of access to the farm. A lead pipe leading from a shallow well on the side hill across the road was the water supply for man and beast. Running to a large wooden box the water was dipped up with a pail carried into the house for family use and the overflow ran to another wooden box for the stock to drink from. Mr. Palmer sold the place to Mr. Ensign. Taking down the cow barn and woodshed, Ensign started major repairs and building, adding on a large ell at the south side of the main building and creating a dining room, kitchen and a large storage room on the ground floor. The second floor was made into bedrooms and several baths and toilets. After completion with a large fireplace in the dining room, the old farm house was opened to the public as an Inn and was called Brookbend Inn, referring to the large bend in Konkapot Brook that runs in sight of the Inn on the south side of the property. Mr. Ensign sold the Inn to a Miss Lelia Morse, who ran it for several years. But he took it back and later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Haviland Staples. Staples sold to John Higgins, who opened up for business as a bachelor, but in a few days was married to Margaret, a girl from Illinois, in the old Inn. Rev. Simmons, who lived here in town, performed the ceremony. John and his wife tried to make a first-class inn go for awhile, but it kept running in the red. John leased to Mr. Dubriel, then finally sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles L'Hommedieu. Charles found the overhead was too expensive to operate as an inn, so took a rooming house license and converted the large dining room into smaller rooms and has six family apartments rented at the present time. We just hope the town will take interest in this Monterey landmark and buy it for a town hall.

— A. Wallace Tryon
from his ms. History of Monterey, *1973*





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JIM LAFFEY

WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Susan LePrevost

Susan LePrevost is not one of the most visible residents in town because, as she puts it, "I'm very happy staying right here in my quiet little corner of Monterey." She is, however, one of Monterey's most interesting and friendly residents. Most folks, especially weekenders and summer residents, probably know her without realizing that they do. That's because she owns and operates Serenity Herbs on Route 23—the place where everyone goes to get fresh-cut herbs for their gourmet recipes.

Susan is originally from South Lee and graduated from Lee High School but has lived in Monterey for the last 18 years. She has been married to Peter LePrevost for the past 24 years. (Peter is a member of Monterey's hard-working Highway Department; he drives our Town's new road grader.) "When my husband got home from Vietnam in one piece," Susan explains, "we saw an ad for a house in Monterey with a fireplace, a brook, and a pantry—everything I needed!"

Susan has worked for Kimberly Clark, first in sales, then in purchasing. After a short stay in Texas, she then returned to work for Suburban Medical Associates in Lee. Peter and Susan don't have any children, but they do have a full house, including two dogs (Welsh Corgis), two cats, two fish, and, at last count, 24 antique spinning wheels!

Susan has almost too many interesting hobbies, which is why she's such a fascinating person to talk with. As I just mentioned, she has a house full of spinning wheels, and she calls herself a "novice spinner." In fact, her latest acquisition is an authentic Shaker spinning wheel made in the Shaker community in Alfred Lake, Maine. She explained to me how, since this particular spinning wheel was signed with the initials of the Shaker Brother who crafted it, she knew it was made for "The World" (the term used by the Shakers for anyone outside their community) and not for sale in the Shaker settlement itself. Why spinning wheels, I asked her. "I first became intrigued with them as a little girl. There's a magic to them, the way they 'whisper' when they spin."

Another of Susan's interests is genealogy. In fact, Susan found out that the house they now live in is a "Garfield House" and is related to Peter's ancestors. Susan loves collecting books, and has whole walls of her house covered with them. She also collects old china-head dolls.

But the interest for which most of us know her is Serenity Herbs. She has studied herbs for the past 15 years and has had the herb business for the past three. If you're one of the few people who have never been to her shop, I urge you to stop by for a visit and a smell! Her shop, on Route 23, is located in the old ice house for an adjacent home. As you enter, the fragrance from the herb wreaths on the walls, the herbs drying as they hang from the ceiling, and the potpourris on the table, is unforgettable. Susan began her herb business making herb wreaths for another company in Stockbridge, which she has since bought out. She makes wreaths with a grey foliage base of artemisia, then trims them with lavender, sage, yarrow, rosemary, roses, lady's mantle, and oregano. Next year, because the demand has been so great, she'll be adding a cutting garden for culinary herbs. This is very exciting because, instead of buying aged, store-bought, pesticide-sprayed herbs, we'll be able to stop by and cut our own, fresh and chemical free.

Susan is delighted to talk about herbs and spices when you visit her shop, so don't be afraid to ask her questions. She told me all about herb teas, such as sage tea, which is great for a cold. Or bergamot, spearmint, or lemon spice thyme tea, some of her favorites. Or even catnip tea, which she says is "quieting for us but an aphrodisiac for your cat!" Serenity Herbs is open from the middle of May to Labor Day, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:30 to 4. (You can drop Susan a post card and, when the new copy of her mail-order catalog is done, she'll send you a copy.)

Susan loves Monterey, but wishes that new development would be more in keeping with the reasons people find this place so attractive in the first place. "Monterey epitomizes the quiet, quaint, little New England village. I wish new houses were made to blend in, not stick out."

I hope that the last of Susan's interests which I'm going to talk about doesn't blow her whole image—that of a quiet woman, running a place called "Serenity" Herbs, reading books, and listening to the whisper of spinning wheels. She's also a biker! Yes, it's true. The sweatshirt you see her wearing in this photo is no accident. She and her husband just bought an 800-lb. Harley Davidson motorcycle which they ride everywhere. They just took a day trip through Connecticut. Susan is quick to add, though, that she had Peter strap saddlebags to the back so she could carry home quilts, books, and anything else she finds interesting. After talking with Susan, I wouldn't be surprised if one day we see her and Peter tooling through Monterey on their Harley with a spinning wheel strapped to the back!

— Jim Laffey

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION LOSES THIRD OF STAFF

Cooperative Extension termination notices have been given to Berkshire County staff members. Those affected are Maddy Elovirta and Kathy Sulock, both from the clerical department, and Michael Martin and Theresa Bombola from 4-H. This leaves six out of ten staff. In the western region 16 staff were terminated, and the Franklin and West Springfield offices will be closed.

Statewide there were 52 terminations. These cuts include the following county positions: six in Community Resource Development, five in Horticulture, ten in 4-H, three in Commercial Agriculture, two in Home Economics; other cuts were in clerical staff (13) and University Specialists.

Cooperative Extension's budget was drastically slashed 37% from $4.77 million last year to $3.00 million for Fiscal 1990. The governor directly vetoed $777,786 in Extension program funding and froze an additional $1 million through a conditional veto.

Friday, August 18, was the last day for the Master Gardener program, which answers questions about horticulture and pest control. A drastic reduction will soon be made in 4-H youth development programming.

— Cathy A. Roth
Staff Chairperson

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

The Monterey Grange No. 291 met on July 19 for its annual Youth Night. Young people from the area conducted the meeting and furnished an enjoyable program. They also had a fund raiser for the youth projects. The food sale at the Monterey Summer Festival was a great success, and the Grange wants to thank all who helped. The Grange is working on an exhibit for the Barrington Fair.

At the August 16 meeting the theme was "The Legend of Flora." Past and present Floras were guests, and there were contests in cultivated and wild flower arrangements and miniatures. The winners were Alice Shaffer, Ansel Lee, Tillie Butler and Florence Brown. Judges were Alicia Brazie, Peter Brown, and Mary Brazie. Guests were present from Umpachene and Stockbridge Granges, including Special Deputy Alicia Brazie and Sub-Deputy Peter Martin. A wedding gift was presented to Michael and Marian Keeler Clark.

The next meeting will be September 6, for a ritual review in charge of Deputy Peter Martin.

Mary Wallace

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SECOND HOMEOWNERS' MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The special meeting with the selectmen for second homeowners, on August 12, was attended by some 80 participants, a clear indication of a need being met. The principal concern expressed was the unusual growth of weeds this summer in Lake Garfield. The selectmen described the current environmental study being paid for by the Town, with help from the Lake Garfield Association. Weed growth, acidity, the presence of different kinds of effluents and other factors in the annual cycle of a healthy or unhealthy lake are being assessed periodically at a number of locations. These points were chosen as characteristic of the variety of eco-systems present in the lake.

The findings of this study will give accurate information to the Town boards concerned with lake management as the best balance is sought between recreation and clean water and between pest control and the protection of wildlife.

Dean Amidon, as president of the Lake Garfield Association, reminded the meeting that this group has been dedicated to the improvement of the condition of the lake for some years. He encouraged all who are interested to join the association to help increase its effectiveness now and in the years ahead.

Selectman Matt Williams cited the unusual action taken by the residents around Lake Buel. They have formed the only independent Lake District in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and are allowed by law to tax themselves specifically for programs of lake maintenance. They operate a weed harvester which removes several hundred tons of weeds annually from Lake Buel.

The operation of the Monterey Dump was another matter of concern at the special meeting. Residents asked if the dump could be open for an additional hour on Sundays. This matter is still under discussion.

Tyrannosaurus about to catch an archaeopteryx

At the Monterey Fire Company Steak Roast on July 29: Pat Andrus, Mary Ram, Heather Hood, Milly Walsh and Michele Dooley help out at the food table;

and Dan Andrus and Bob Stevens cook steaks.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN McALLESTER

TEARS

Some tears are rain
at the end of the day
Come as relief
to wash care away.

Others like storms brew
with venom increasing
Light flashing fiercely
hatred releasing.

But mine are so bitter
your words cut so deep
I laugh in the daytime
to cry when I sleep.

— Sue Moody

DANDELIONS

If dandelions were rare,
Well worth an archangel's fee—
Coin of common earth
Gold spill of prodigality . . .

— Dorothy E. Law

BEES

Bees can do
amazing things
They can even
hunker down on kings.

They are purported
to have knees
And to fly as far
as they please.

The most baffling thing
to be seen—
Is how they fare so well
with just one Queen!

Hive ho!

— E. L. W.

BEAUTY'S TRACE

Staring at my rough meadow
from this perched place
I have watched wings, hawks and finches,
just once an airplane's,
braving the cliff face.
I stare now in high June's quiet noon
to a packed constellation
each daisy a distinguished star
sun-fired white, flashing
in the uninsistent wind.
The white constellation upbeams
toward blue vault sky, also sun-
fired, fleckless. The meadow
itself spreads to birch
beech oak all (at last)
in full leaf, an edge
of depths and shimmering

shallows greener than any salt sea.
Radiant roof in the immense noon
the trees roll out
to another edge, end
of the visible world.
Here's
no metaphor, rather
in evanescent space
stretched below, above, far
to the rim of the shining hills,
secret beauty's local trace.

— James H. Michelman

The House on the Hill

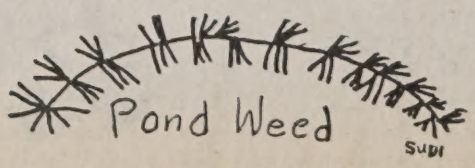
The New Exploration: A Philosophy of Regional Planning was published by Benton MacKaye in 1929. He was one of the co-founders of the Wilderness Society and is known as the father of the Appalachian Trail, which wends for some of its two thousand miles right through Monterey on its way from Maine to Georgia. The idea has spread: a similar trail is being completed from Canada to Mexico down the spine of the Rocky Mountains (3,000 miles!), another parallels the Pacific Ocean, down the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada for 2,560 miles. And a network of hiking and bicycle trails connects parks, preserves and wilderness areas across the country. "Connectedness" is the key word in MacKaye's philosophy. For example, if you build a house on a mountain with a spectacular view, what are you doing to the views from the many houses below you for miles around?

Monterey has ordinances requiring setback of buildings from the shores of its lakes and prohibiting new boathouses. The necessity for this became apparent some years ago not only from the threat of sewage but also because of the esthetic effect of a lake lined with buildings. The connectedness between one's own enjoyment and the enjoyment of others and the connectedness between use of the environment and the degradation of the environment has grown in our consciousness.

Today, from the various high points in town one can see a vast spread of almost limitless woodlands. The houses are mostly tucked into the hollows, and the hills lie under a thick carpet of nearly unbroken green comparable to what one can see in a wilderness area. It was not always so. A little over 100 years ago the charcoal industry cut and burned its way to the very hilltops. The denuded slopes became rocky pastures and logging and hunting moved elsewhere. Now the carpet is miraculously back on the hills because farming stones didn't pay. But now a high commercial value of another sort is coming into play that threatens the very views that have become so valuable. Communities are beginning to protect themselves with scenic mountain ordinances.

The sense of connectedness could enable Monterey to avoid another set of regulations. The house with a view does not have to stare over the world from a bald spot on the mountain. It can be set back among the trees the way new homes do on the lake, and its view could actually be enhanced. As we have the opportunity to enjoy the special qualities of this beautiful region we can ask how to give to the neighborhood as well as take from it. It used to be that only the owners of vast estates felt the need to hire landscape architects, but now we are beginning to realize that we are all mutual proprietors of a landscape that goes for miles. We must view our piece of it as the landscape architect would view the whole.

— David P. McAllester



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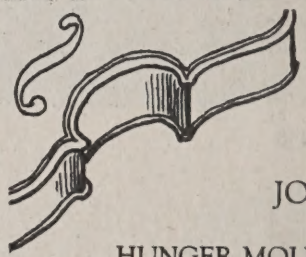
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AN EVENING IN BANGLADESH

At the regular Community Supper, August 9, Ellen Pedersen transported us from the Berkshires to Malumghat in Bangladesh where the temperature was usually between 85 and 95 degrees, but with so little humidity as to be quite comfortable. And not a mosquito, black fly, or midge! Ellen's trip was a three months' tour of medical duty at Malumghat Hospital and also an expression of religious vocation as she shared "the things of God" with the people there. She heard of the possibility of service in Bangladesh some years ago, and the trip was to find out if there was a niche there that she would feel called upon to fill.

As it turned out, the local people were eager to fill all possible niches themselves, though they were very grateful for the training that enabled them to do so. Their method of learning was, "1) show us; 2) do it with us; 3) now we'll do it; leave us alone." The technicians at the hospital, for example, were all trained on the spot, learned very quickly, and were very good at their jobs, often doing medical work that only doctors do in this country.

Still, the situation was one of real hardship. The poverty is so great that people only come to the hospital when they are desperately ill or have suffered serious accidents. This meant very hard work at the hospital. As Ellen put it, "If you made it through the day, it was a good day."

Ellen's slides showed friendly, attractive people in a beautiful countryside. It is a rich and ancient culture, though burdened with immense overpopulation. We were lucky to have such an intimate glimpse of a part of the world so different from Monterey.

— David P. McAllester

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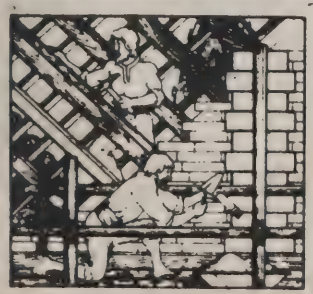

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PERSONAL NOTES

Hats off to **John Mulroy**, who earned second prize in a LEGO contest sponsored by the Busy Kids toy store in Great Barrington. John brought his unassembled LEGOs to the store and in short order built a very imaginative monorail system. He was awarded not only a $20 gift certificate, but ice cream to boot! The multi-talented John also does a great deal of reading and earned the Gold Medal Reading Award for his efforts. Great work, John!

And, speaking of industrious young men in town, our local Boy Scout troop has spent a lot of their weekend time taking responsibility for the newspapers we've been dropping at the shed. They arrange for a truck, unload the newspaper shed, tie the papers in bundles, and then load them on the truck. We are happy to report that the boys were able to earn enough money to allow them to join the Sheffield troop on a five-day Dufour bus trip to Washington, D. C., where they visited the Air and Space Museum; to the Boy Scout Jamboree in Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia; to Luray Caverns in Virginia; and to Gettysburg, where they toured the battlefields and went hiking. **Conrad Ohman** of Blue Hill Road was troop leader accompanying **Geoffrey Arend**, **Timmy Jones**, **Michael Mielke**, **Kevin Ohman**, and **Thomas Vickerman** on the trip.

Frances Brett recently enjoyed a wonderful visit with **Marjorie** and **Robert Day** from Medford, who, along with granddaughter **Selena Gell** and a friend visiting from Japan, very much enjoyed visiting the Berkshires. A dear friend of all, **Mary Lou Larelle** of Holyoke, also joined them. Along with a trip to Stockbridge to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum, Selena enjoyed horseback riding, and, most of all, gaining memories and experiences she will never forget.

Best wishes to **Karen Shreefter** and **Christopher Blair**, who were married on July 9 at Blue Hill Farm.

Congratulations to **Michael Marcus** on the completion of his new gallery at Joyous Spring Pottery. Many enjoyed the Grand Opening, where the wood-fired unglazed ceramics from the fourth firing of the Bizen Climbing Kiln were so beautifully displayed.

And congratulations to **Lois Ryder**, who was a prizewinner in the Sheffield Art League's 16th annual show held at the Special Education Building in Sheffield through August 20.

To **Helen Shaw**, our best wishes for speedy healing of that broken arm.

Welcome back to **Natasha Grotz** and **Patrick McBride**, who have returned from five weeks of Eurailing and backpacking in Europe. Pat and Tasha enjoyed some time in Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and France.

Happy Happy Birthday to **David McAllester** on August 6; to **Michelle Grotz** on August 20; to accomplished toymaker **Alton Heath**, who was 89 on August 22; and to **Ann McGinley** on August 26. There must be others! Let me know! Please jot down your news and drop it at the General Store, in the mail — Route 23, or give me a call, 528-4519. Again, I appreciate your contributions!

— Stephanie Grotz

ELLEN PEARSON

Rita Backhaus was sworn in as Monterey's first policewoman during August. The force, left to right: Doug Lyman, Chief; Rita Backhaus; Gareth Backhaus (her husband); and Gordon Hamm.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

What has happened to our annual Monterey Festival of the Arts? This year the flea market overshadowed the art exhibit, which was shoved to the far corner of the firehouse pavilion.

For the past five years, Frank D'Amato, Michael Marcus, Leonard Weber and many other members of the committee provided the town with elegance, promoting cultural activities and local artists.

I remembered the fantastic Jazz Festival last summer—a friend of mine who attended is the President of the Jazz Club of Sarasota. He was amazed that our little town could attract outstanding renowned musicians and could not get over the beauty of Rock Ridge.

I remembered the elegant opening receptions in the firehouse where exhibits of paintings, photographs, jewelry and many crafts were on display—I remember the wonderful concerts, dancers, and vocalists who entertained us. I am saddened to hear that Frank, Michael and Leonard will no longer serve on the Arts Council, as their time has expired. I hope that the new members will encourage the input from these very talented men for the next year's festival and that they will review the successes of the past five years to provide us with the same elegance and varied cultural events.

Perhaps "I Love Monterey" Day should be a separate event from the Monterey Arts Festival.

Sincerely,

Jean Germain

ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

Attention all artists—the fall funding period is upon us for those who would like to seek support for projects in the arts! Applications can be obtained from Maryellen Brown at the Town offices. Ask for a Massachusetts Arts Lottery Fall Funding Application—*the deadline is September 30.*

The Arts Council has decided to try Wednesdays for its meetings. The next one will be September 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church social room. New members are needed: after six years of valiant service Michael Marcus, Lenny Weber, and Frank D'Amato have reached the mandatory retirement point. We celebrate their energy and imagination and hope to fill those vacancies with other, inspired Montereyans. Please come to the meeting and help us maintain the impressive momentum given us by these dedicated Council members.

— Donna Bartell

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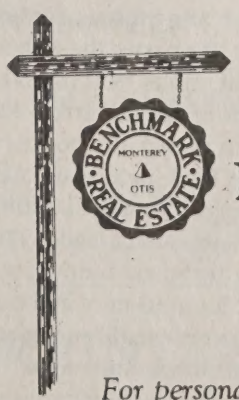

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VISIT TO EAST GERMANY AND PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA — PART 2

This is the concluding part of a description of a visit made recently by Montereyan Bernie Kleban. The first part appeared in the July '89 issue of the Monterey News.

My observation of "The Wall," and the information given our group in a talk at the Brandenburg Gate in the eastern part of Berlin, also came as an informative and pleasant surprise. We were told that the ten-foot-high, neat concrete-slab white wall, erected by the East German government in 1961, was put up to keep West Berliners from entering the eastern part of Berlin to "raid" the markets, where consumer goods of all types were (and still are) much cheaper because they are the products of a non-profit (socialist) system. The West Berlin "raids" threatened to disrupt the East German economy.

I had no trouble getting a 24-hour pass to cross over the wall into West Berlin at the Friedrichstrassen gate ("Check-point Charlie"), where thousands of East Berliners pass through daily, returning in the evening after a day's work or visit to their families. All that is needed is a passport and a visa identifying the individual who is going either way. Since I was a "foreigner," I was required to leave my passport with the East German guards, who gave me a written 24-hour pass into West Berlin. The entire city of West Berlin is an island, surrounded by East German territory. The eastern part is the capital of East Germany, and West Germany has its capital in Bonn, quite a distance from West Berlin. The city is supposed to be "neutral" territory, according to the Potsdam Peace Agreement signed in 1945.

In East Berlin we visited an "after school center" with extensive grounds, equipment, and classes designed to keep school children busy and learning (on a voluntary basis) while their parents were still at work. We found the teachers to be very supportive and sympathetic to the children's needs and interests. We walked through the Pergammon museum of ancient artifacts — one of 25 museums demolished during the war and now fully restored. We saw a brilliant production of the opera *Tosca* at the restored State Opera House, and we witnessed a changing of the guard at a museum dedicated to the "unknown anti-fascist" soldier. We passed the August Bebel building, in front of which the infamous 1933 book-burning took place. A climb up the steps of the Dimitroff Museum brought us to the very hall which served as a courtroom for the world-famous Reichstag Fire Trial (or an accurate restoration of it). There, a tape recording of the actual testimony by Nazi Prosecutor Goering and Communist leader Dimitroff evoked many memories of those turbulent times in the 1930s when Dimitroff fought to prove his innocence and outwitted an attempt at a frame-up. (Those readers old enough to recall this will also remember that Dimitroff was supported by world-wide protests, and he eventually was freed. He subsequently was re-arrested by the Nazis, but escaped and fled to the Soviet Union, where he died in the 1950s).

At a very large cooperative farm south of Berlin, the 46-year-old manager told us the enterprise is run by 40 farm families who live on the premises. He showed us what were obviously well-operated facilities for producing dairy products, fruit, and pork for markets in Berlin and other nearby cities and towns.

We went by rail from Berlin to Prague, traveling for about six hours through the lush countryside of southern East Germany. We passed many large socialist industrial buildings, and several cooperatively run farms and agricultural enterprises. All of these, we were told, supply the consumer needs of the entire East German population. When we arrived in Prague we were led to quite decent accommodations, but in an old hotel. They did not compare to the luxurious quality of the hotels we stayed at in East Germany. We also found that the Czech people were not as enthusiastic about life in general, or their government, as were the East Germans. (Of course, these are somewhat superficial observations made during a brief visit.) When we sought an explanation for this, it was pointed out that Czechoslovakia did not suffer under long years of Nazi domination as did East Germany; that the buildings had not been destroyed during the war, hence the pride and enthusiasm we sensed among East Germans just does not exist in Czechoslovakia. Prague, however, is a very beautiful city — rich in historical buildings and with attractive shopping areas.

On our way home just about everyone in our group agreed that the trip had been a most exciting one. It had taken us to many areas where recent history was made.

— Bernard Kleban

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THE MAHINGAN INSTITUTE

The Mahingan Institute is a non-profit research and educational effort based in Monterey, Massachusetts, focusing on the cultural and archaeological history of the Berkshire Region. The professional anthropologists and archaeologists serving as staff and advisors are planning a comprehensive program for the Institute. The initial project, designated The Algonquin Project, got underway this summer with a full-scale archaeological excavation of a Monterey site believed to date back 5,000 years. As with all Institute programs, local volunteers are working with the staff to explore contributions to the culture of the Berkshire Region that have been made by all its residents, from the early American Indians on through to the present day.

As funding becomes available, it is the intent of the Institute to build a museum and teaching facility to house the loan of private collections and memorabilia and to provide a working knowledge of the ways of life preceding us. Demonstrations of traditional technologies, hands-on workshops, lectures and site tours will illustrate and enhance the findings of our research projects. Funding for the Institute will, of necessity, come from a variety of sources including governmental and institutional grants. Donations from individuals are of utmost importance to the continuation of this effort and any assistance you are able to give will be greatly appreciated.

For more information write The Mahingan Institute, Box 307, Monterey, or contact Barbara Swann, 528-2234; David Parett, 354-2252; or Jan Thieme, 528-9488.

(from a leaflet distributed at the Monterey Summer Festival.)

ABANDONED CANOE

An aluminum canoe has been left for some time on private property on Lake Garfield. If yours is missing, call 528-1847.

CALENDAR

Friday, September 8—Historical Society will meet in the Library at 7:30 p.m. to hear David Parrett, local archaeologist, on "Ten Thousand Years of South Berkshire Prehistory." There will be slides and an exhibit of artifacts.

Saturday, September 9—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, MA. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $4; children, $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413—528-9385, or 518-329-7578.

Wednesday, September 13—Community Supper in Church social room at 6:30 p.m. Bring your casserole or salad and see what gustatory delights are also brought by your neighbors. Program will be Barbara Swann chairing a panel of Monterey's Mahingan Institute on the archaeological and Colonial history of Monterey. *(See separate article on the Institute.)*

Wednesday, September 20—Arts Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in Church social room. Everyone interested is urged to come: recruits are needed to replace retiring members Michael Marcus, Lenny Weber, and Frank D'Amato and keep up the sterling service they rendered to the arts in Monterey.

Saturday, September 23—Square and Contra dance at the Sheffield Grange. 8:30-11:30. This program is for people who have done it before. For other information see notice for September 9.

Saturday, September 30—Deadline for Monterey Arts Council grants to encourage creation in any and all the arts. See the Town secretary for application materials.

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PAN-MASS CHALLENGE FOR THE JIMMY FUND

I wish to thank all those people who contributed so generously to my bike ride for the Jimmy Fund.

The ride took place on August 13 and 14. Nine hundred seventy-five bikers traveled a distance of one hundred ninety-four miles from Sturbridge to Provincetown. We left at 6 a.m. on Saturday in the rain and experienced some sunshine during the two days. There were water and food stops every twenty miles and medical and bike repair teams manned by four hundred volunteers to help us get through the arduous ride.

Through your generous response I was able to raise $800, and the total expected from this year's challenge is over $1,000,000. All receipts go directly to help in the fight to prevent and cure cancer in children.

— Roger Tryon

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1" x 3⅜")	$ 2.50
Two-inch busines cards (2" x 3⅜")	5.00
Three-inch ad (3" x 3⅜")	7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3⅜")	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

SPECIAL DUMP DAYS

On September 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, and 13, special containers will be available at the dump for "white metal goods," such as refrigerators, and other items not ordinarily acceptable at the dump, such as household furniture. A schedule of fees will be charged for different kinds of items to pay part of the cost of renting the containers: the dump operator will set the fees, which are to be paid by check.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The Monterey Summer Festival Committee wants to extend warmest thanks to all the many people who created the Festival. The exhibitors gave us substance, the performers gave us delight, the concessions gave us sustenance and the organizers made it all come together, thanks to long hours of planning. And the "public" capped the whole experience with their good cheer and enthusiasm, making it all worthwhile!

— The Committee

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Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
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	Eileen Clawson
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